

Serial No.: 10/729,769

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

This response is timely filed as it is filed within the ONE (1) month shortened statutory period for response to the outstanding Office Action.

No additional claim fee is believed to be due because neither the total number of pending claims nor the number of independent claims is believed to exceed the total number and the number of independent claims, respectively, for which fees have previously been paid. If, however, it is determined that such a fee is properly due as a result of this communication, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge payment of such fees or credit any overpayment, associated with this communication, to Deposit Account 19-3550.

Election/Restrictions

The application has been alleged to contain claims directed to the following patentably distinct species of the claimed invention:

Species a: The embodiment shown in FIGS. 1 and 2; and

Species b: The embodiment shown in FIGS. 3 and 4.

The Action has required, under 35 U.S.C. 121, the election of a single disclosed species for prosecution on the merits to which the claims shall be restricted if no generic claim is finally held to allowable. The Action further identifies claim 1 as being generic.

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Claims 1-25 remain in the application.

The invention of Species b, represented by FIGS. 3 and 4, is elected. Claims readable on the elected species include claims 1-5 and 7-25. Moreover, at least claims 1-5 and 15 appear to be generic to the identified species.

Conclusion

It is believed that the above elections are properly responsive to the requirements contained in the Action and that the application is in condition for substantive examination. Should the Examiner detect any issue or have any question which might be resolved via a telephone discussion, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned by telephone at the (847) 490-1400, in an effort to expedite examination of the application.

Respectfully submitted,



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